

THE
OUTLOOK

DECEMBER 2023
TO JANUARY 2024



Emmanuel Church Sidcup
Methodist and United Reformed

Message From the Minister

Dear friends,

The Bible is full of stories. The story of the birth of Jesus is one of the most popular. It gives rise to the favourite Christian festival for all nations of Christian heritage. The Bible starts with the story of creation: "In the beginning...". The New Testament echoes it: "In the beginning was the Word", Jesus Christ incarnate.

But there's more to the Bible than stories, even though that's the easiest part of its teaching to remember. The Bible contains many speeches, including all the speeches of the prophets. Some Old Testament commentators believe that the earliest fragments of the Bible are prophetic writings. One of these consists of a few passages from the prophet Amos, written in the 8th century BC. So, historically, the Bible does not begin with the story of God creating the world, but with an angry prophet denouncing the injustices of his people.

The prophet Amos denounces his contemporaries: "I know how terrible your sins are and how many crimes you have committed. You persecute good people, take bribes and prevent the poor from getting justice in the courts." (Amos 5:12)

The prophetic tradition of Israel is an essential part of the Bible. The Gospel of Mark begins by acknowledging the importance of this tradition by recounting the ministry of John the Baptist, a prophet in the line of Israel's prophets. The other Gospels mention ancient prophecies that foretold the coming of the Messiah: "The young woman is with child, and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14); "But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days." (Micah 5:2).

So Jesus comes to listen to the prophet John the Baptist and is baptised. Jesus himself became a prophet, even though we don't usually think of him in that way. He took up the words of the Old Testament prophets and made their struggle for social justice and against religious hypocrisy his own.

As we can see, the liturgical season of Christmas is full of prophetic words. This encourages us to appreciate this aspect of the Bible and this way of expressing faith. The Christian faith is imbued with prophecy. Therefore, it is also important for we Christians to be prophetic like Christ, that is, to be intellectually and emotionally sensitive to the injustices of our time and to denounce all forms of hypocrisy in our society.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy start to the New Year!
Every blessing,

Rev Rodolphe Blanchard-Kowal



Christmas Events 2023



- Saturday 2nd Dec Decorate the Church for Christmas
- Sunday 10th Dec 4.00pm Mayoral Civic Carol Service at St Johns.
- Sunday 17th Dec 10.30am Lessons & Carols at Emmanuel.
- Tuesday 19th Dec Carol singing in the neighbourhood for Action for Children (numbers and weather permitting).
- Sunday 24th Dec 10.30am Rev Duncan MacBean
- Sunday 24th Dec 11.00m Midnight Christmas Eve Service at St John the Evangelist.
- Monday 25th Dec **10.00am** Christmas Day Service shared with the Pastorate - at Emmanuel with Rev Rodolphe Blanchard-Kowal. It is traditional for children to show one of their Christmas presents.

A retiring collection on Christmas Day will be for Crisis. All the Friday and Sunday coffee money during December will also be donated to Crisis, as will the money collected from the Christmas Card Tree. Any other donations will be welcome.



Christmas Card Tree

As usual there will be a Christmas tree for you to decorate with Christmas cards to your Church friends, and give a donation to our Christmas Charity which will as usual be Crisis.

Thank you to Olive Lewis who started this idea many years ago. I am sure Olive must be delighted that the Christmas Card Tree has become a tradition at Emmanuel. Please help to support Crisis with your generous donations.

Christmas - What ! Already?

Well, once again we are looking forward to Christmas. Each year it always seems like we celebrated it last week, but as usual it takes us by surprise!

I love the build up to the actual day and it starts with Advent Sunday. We decorate the Church on the previous day, on the Saturday. It is always a happy occasion to make our Church as beautiful as we can to welcome our Lord Jesus.

Every year it feels so fresh and new. In the porch the Nativity Set that Maisie Parker gave us is a lovely simple wooden symbol to welcome all to our Church. Last year we put a lit Christmas tree in the porch next to the Nativity and we hope to do the same thing this year.

If anyone would like to help with the decorating, all are welcome. Advent is on the 3rd of December when the first of the Advent candles will be lit. The Church will be decorated on the 2nd December. We meet in the Church at 10am to have a very happy time including refreshments.

Anyone who can help or just wants to come and feel the warmth is welcome. Wishing you a Very Happy Christmas!

Marion

Love in a Box

Thank you to all those who donated a ' Love in a box '.

The boxes were collected from Emmanuel by Mustard Seed, together with boxes from Footscray Baptist Church.

They are now on their way to bring a smile on many children's faces this Christmas.

Judith

Pastorate update.

The Pastorate service on October 1st was well attended by all three Churches. It was good to share fellowship together in the hall over a cup of tea or coffee afterwards.

We look forward to celebrating Christmas Day together at Emmanuel.

Peter and I went to a Pastorate meeting at Geddes Place on October 9th. It was agreed that there would be a Pastorate lunch again at Sophie's Choice in the New year. Tuesday the 6th of February is the proposed date, still to be confirmed. Further details will be given nearer the time.

An Elder's training day was also suggested with a date to be arranged.

Judith

Pastoral News

Everyone was very sad to hear that Colin Brown had died. Our thoughts and prayers continue to go to Auriol and family. The Eulogy presented by Ashley at Colin's service is printed on page 14.

We heard the news that Hilda Wald had died recently. Hilda had been a member at Blendon and supported the Women's hour at Emmanuel. Our sympathy goes to her family.

Doreen Still wishes to be remembered to Emmanuel. Her husband is unwell and she cannot get to Church. She is very grateful for the weekly services which the Circuit sends to her.

Marion Parfit and Pat Brace still need to keep regular appointments but they are both always cheerful and manage to get to Church.

It has been good to see Mandy at Church recently although she is still undergoing treatment. Audrey Fish was pleased to hear about Emmanuel when I phoned her recently. She can no longer manage to come to Church but she is well cared for by her daughter.

Remember Freda Skinner in St Margaret's. She always seems pleased to see me when I visit. Also remember Elaine Smith in Northbourne Court. We have been pleased to see George when he called into the Church recently

We have heard from the Americans Vic and Nancy Matson. He was our minister over 20 years ago. They have celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary and sold their house, moving into sheltered accommodation with all the bells and whistles possible.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who cannot get to Church regularly, Olive Lewis, George Smith, Doreen Still and Eileen Taylor.

There is a prayer book at the back of the Church if you know of people who should be mentioned during the service.

Judith

Chislehurst Christmas Tree Festival

Once again Chislehurst Methodist Church will be holding a Winter Wonderland.

Sun 26-11-23 12 to 4pm

Mon 27-11-23 to Fri 1-12-23 10am to 1pm and 3 to 5pm.

(Tue 28-11-23 Carols, Cake & Coffee 3 to 5pm)

Sat 2-12-23 12 to 4pm (Bromley Jazz Collective 2 to 4pm)

Many thanks for your ongoing generosity to theManna Society

Harvest goods were collected on Monday 9th of October. . They were very pleased that everything was packed up so they just had to be put it in their van.



THE MANNA DAY CENTRE
12 MELIOR STREET, LONDON SE1 3QP
www.mannasociety.org.uk
Tel: 020 7287 0963

(Day centre for homeless people & those in need)

**A
BIG
"THANK YOU"
FOR YOUR
HARVEST FESTIVAL
GIFTS.**

**YOUR DONATION ENABLES US TO
PROVIDE:**

**A BREAKFAST & COOKED LUNCH
FOR APPROX. 120
PEOPLE EVERYDAY
(7 DAYS A WEEK)**

MANY THANKS



Being a Local Preacher

Hi Everyone, it's good to continue receiving my copy of Outlook and having updates on familiar names.

I was doing some Local Preacher maths recently and felt rather old when I realised that in October next year - 2024 - I will have been Accredited as a Local Preacher for 50 years but 60 years since I first went On Plan/On Trial !

Why the long gap, you ask? It took so long because of moving away from the Isle of Wight to find my independence and frequently needing to find a new tutor for the LP exams studies each time I moved. But during those years my faith developed and grew, as it has continued to do ever since.

My thoughts then took me back to remembering other Local Preachers from the East Wight Circuit whose example I felt had influenced and impressed me. One in particular was blind Mr. Payne from Sandford. He knew his Methodist Hymn Book by heart, number by number, verse by verse, and always had a cheery word of encouragement.

Today, reflecting on the various challenges and situations I have faced over the years, I can happily say that my faith has 'seen me safely through' some tricky times and has strengthened in the process.

I hope this message will encourage all upcoming potential Local Preachers to discover in their own experiences of life a valuable continuing strength in their own faith which they can share with others around them, and for all of us, whether Local Preachers or not, to remember 'We are not alone'.

God bless you all.

Heather (Phillips)

Nantymoel, South Wales, since 2007.

Have just finished having builders replace rendering on biggest wall of house as result of shoddy work done 4yrs ago. Half my bedroom wall covered in damp patches and blistering paint because no weatherproof layer had been added 4yrs ago. Next task is getting the inside damage repaired. Lounge below bedroom also affected. Grrr! The work outside took 5 levels of scaffolding and a team of 5 a whole week just to hack off back to stonework!

Luckily we have a council dept with approved list of firms so I got them to organise who would do the work this time. A nightmare though because weather changes kept causing delays. Never mind, outside work all done now! Phew!

Love and best wishes to you all. Take care. God bless.

Heather



Services for December

3	10.30am	Rev R Blanchard-Kowal	Communion
10	10.30am	Mrs Joan Mayes	
17	10.30am	Elders	Lessons & Carols
24	10.30am	Rev Duncan MacBean	
25	<u>10.00am</u>	Rev R Blanchard-Kowal	Christmas Day (Pastorate)
31	10.30am	Rev R Blanchard-Kowal	

Services for January

7	10.30am	Mr Martin Leonard	Communion
14	10.30am	Mr John Twidale	
21	10.30am	Mrs Val Loader	
28	10.30am	Mr Alan Kienlen	

Services for February

4	10.30am	Mr Martin Leonard	
11	10.30am	Elders	
18	10.30am	Rev R Blanchard-Kowal	Communion
25	10.30am	Mr Alan Kienlen	

Revised Common Lectionary

Calendar Date	Liturgical Date	First Reading	Psalm
03 Dec	1st Sun of Advent	Isaiah 64:1-9	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
10 Dec	2nd Sun of Advent	Isaiah 40:1-11	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
	3rd Sun of Advent	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	Psalm 126 or
17 Dec			
24 Dec	4th Sun of Advent	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	Luke 1:46b-55 or
24 & 25 Dec	Nativity of the Lord	Isaiah 9:2-7	Psalm 96
31 Dec	1st Sun after Christmas Day	Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Psalm 148
07 Jan	1st Sun after Epiphany	Genesis 1:1-5	Psalm 29
14 Jan	2nd Sun after Epiphany	1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
21 Jan	3rd Sun after Epiphany	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	Psalm 62:5-12
28 Jan	4th Sun after Epiphany	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	Psalm 111
04 Feb	5th Sun after Epiphany	Isaiah 40:21-31	Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
11 Feb	Transfiguration Sun	2 Kings 2:1-12	Psalm 50:1-6
18 Feb	1st Sun in Lent	Genesis 9:8-17	Psalm 25:1-10
25 Feb	2nd Sun in Lent	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	Psalm 22:23-31

Christian Unity Service

There will be a Christian Unity Service on
21st January 2024 at 4.00pm
At St Lawrence Church, Main Road, Sidcup.

The full Lectionary can be accessed on line at
<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/index.php>
Make sure you select the correct year (A, B or C)

Revised Common Lectionary

Calendar Date	Second Reading	Gospel Reading
03 Dec	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 13:24-37
10 Dec	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Mark 1:1-8
17 Dec	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28
24 Dec	Romans 16:25-27	Luke 1:26-38
24 & 25 Dec	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)
31 Dec	Galatians 4:4-7	Luke 2:22-40
07 Jan	Acts 19:1-7	Mark 1:4-11
14 Jan	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	John 1:43-51
21 Jan	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20
28 Jan	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28
04 Feb	1 Corinthians 9:16-23	Mark 1:29-39
11 Feb	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Mark 9:2-9
18 Feb	1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1:9-15
25 Feb	Romans 4:13-25	Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9

Please Note

The next edition **Mar / Apr / May** of Outlook will be printed at the end of February.

Outlook is your magazine!

We would love to hear your stories.

If you have something to share, please let me have it by Feb 18th

Tony Howard

Emmanuel.church.outlook@gmail.com



Messy Church

The September messy church was enjoyed by a smaller number of children than usual but they all had a lovely afternoon exploring all the different activities. A picture of Noah's Ark using coloured sticks produced some colourful results and Joseph's coats of many colours were beautiful.

The topic of families was well covered with family pictures, plates of family food and family trees. It was a beautiful day and we felt the families were taking advantage of the sunshine after the disappointing weather of the school holidays.

In November the numbers had doubled and 15 children enjoyed activities about Remembrance including making individual poppies and a giant group picture of a field of poppies. The recent Guy Fawkes night inspired rockets, red devils and decorating firework biscuits. A memory tree was the opportunity to remember special people. Younger children loved playing with the toys in the parent and toddler corner. After a story about the lost sheep and a prayer everyone sat down to enjoy a delicious tea that had been prepared for them. There had been a lovely warm atmosphere in the hall with happy, busy children loving to take part in the variety of craft activities which had been lovingly prepared for them. It is a joy seeing children in our community enjoying Messy Church.

The next dates will be January 13th about Winter and March 9th about Spring.

Judith



Remembrance Sunday Service

The Church was well filled to commemorate Remembrance Day. It was good to see the uniformed organisations on parade. As the names on the memorial plaques were read out, photographs of the servicemen were projected onto a screen. The service was conducted by the Elders and refreshments were served in the Hall afterwards.

In addition to the usual words “They shall grow not old...”, we should also remember the words on the Kohima Epitaph on the India Myanmar (Burma) border, where some of the bitterest fighting of the Far East campaign took place in 1944.

*When you go home
Tell them of us and say
For your tomorrow
We gave our today*

Food Bank Report Nov 2023

Thank you to everyone who donates. It is very much appreciated by the Food Bank and the people who find themselves in a very difficult situation.

Their Urgent Needs Are:

Cleaning Products including washing up liquid.	Razors Men *
Small packets of washing Powder.	Coffee
Deodorants Men & Women	Tea *
Shampoo	Biscuits
Bars of soap	Jam, chocolate spread, peanut butter
Porridge	Potatoes in tins or mash
Meat in tins	Female Hygiene products
Tins of Fish	Tampons *
Long life milk	Nappies size 6 or 7
Fruit in tins *	Tinned Spaghetti
Vegetables in tins & Tomatoes *	Squash to dilute *
Ready to eat Custard & Rice Puddings *	Toothpaste
Fruit Juice in Cartons (Long Life)	
Toilet Rolls *	
Kitchen Rolls	* items are out of stock
Small packets of sugar *	
Noodles	

Guide Dogs

Did any of you watch the programmes on Guide dog puppies ? I did as I have a special connection as my daughter went blind after having her second son.

Her life changed completely, she could no longer go out on her own. She had to get used to walking with a cane. Then she was introduced to Ed who was a German Shepherd cross Golden retriever. Once again her life changed this time in a positive way as he became her wonderful guide and friend. Taking her wherever she wanted independently. It was Ed who allowed her to train for blind cricket and subsequently be chosen for the England team that took part in the International Blind games in Birmingham in which they came 3rd and won a Bronze Medal and an England cap.

Guide dogs are retired between 10 - 11. Due to Covid ,when they had to stop the breeding programme as no puppy walkers were allowed, there is a shortage. So when they said Ed had to retire we were worried that she would be without help again. However someone was smiling down at her as she was introduced to a black Labrador called Hal. She has spent 2 weeks in a hotel in Maidstone training with him. He had spent a year with a puppy walker exposing him to as many experiences as possible, such as supermarkets, buses, trains etc. before going on to a further years Guide Dog Training. Here he learned to stop at kerbs, find the button at crossings avoid any obstacles and refuse to cross even when told to do so if a car was coming. The handler has to have such faith in their dog. Ed rewarded my daughter's faith when he flung her against a fence when a car mounted the pavement.



Hal new
guide dog ED
retired



Alison while training



Hal

She couldn't bear to part with Ed after all those years so I looked after him while she did her training. I took him to Crayford and he insisted on walking me to the button in order to cross the road, yet he had never been there before!! Fortunately, Ed and Hal are now good friends enjoying each other's company but Hal has taken over as Alison's guide.

It costs £55,000 to train a Guide dog and you can always sponsor a puppy and get regular updates on their progress. Our family have named two in memory of my husband after Alison raised the money by a sponsored Sky dive and the longest zip wire among her fund raising.

Since writing this Martin Clunes has adopted a retired guide dog and has a programme about them on ITV.

Blind cricket has a bell in the ball. Totally blind players have a runner for them. Balls are bowled underarm and the batsman sweeps for it. Before a bowler bowls the backstop claps 3 times calling their name to give them the direction.

Val Loader

SIDCUP LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1880

Programme for October 2023 – March 2024

2023

Oct	10 th	E. G. M., M&S comes to Sidcup	Conversazione <i>Will Smith (Property Director) and John Bark (Location Planning Manager)</i>
	24 th	SS Blücher – Norway's Greatest Naval Victory WWII	Ciaran Early
Nov	4 th	Eltham Palace	David Sleep
	28 th	Polish Airforce Memorial Committee	Richard Kornicki
Dec	12 th	Northern Line Improvements at Bank Station	Syed Ahmed, Conor Jordan

2024

Jan	9 th	West End Theatres	Alison Rae
	23 rd	Camden Place & Napoleon III at Chislehurst	Angela Hatton
Feb	13 th	Miniature railways across Scotland	Philippa Jeffries
	27 th	London Cable Tunnel	Isabelle Sambles
Mar	12 th	Literary Bexley	Richard Easterbrook
	26 th	A. G. M. Dame Ethel Smyth and her music	Dr James Ross

The Society welcomes new members and guests. Why not come along and join us on a Tuesday evening? All meetings are held at

The Emmanuel Church Hall, Hadlow Road, Sidcup. Kent DA14 4DR at 7.30 pm

Annual subscription - £ 18 Single lecture - £ 5 Contact: 020 8309 0183

Eulogy for Colin Brown 1945 to 2023

Thank you all for being here today to celebrate Colin's life. Some of you have come far, so your being here today is appreciated.

But I understand why you are here. When I messaged my friends to tell them my dad had passed away, the replies I got were, "He was a top man. He was a gentleman." You are here because you want to pay a wonderful man your respects.

I work at a school, and one of the most important things students are taught is having good character and values like Courage, Integrity, Compassion, Respect, Responsibility and Team Spirit.

If you had a role model representing all those values, you would get Colin, my dad was brilliant, I don't need to say it, you know.

The Order of Service says "Life Story" above my name, but I haven't got time to tell Dad's life story; he wouldn't want this event to drag on. We've got another hymn to sing and the Lord's Prayer to go.

I have been scanning photos for the order of service booklet and the display at the club later. What is evident is dad lived a great life. He loved rowing when he was younger, enjoyed golf, was a keen gardener and was passionate about his work. Dad was a huge cricket fan and Arsenal season ticket holder. We all especially enjoyed victories over Man. United - Sorry, Mike.

Dad loved to travel. When he was young, he explored Europe. He travelled a lot with Citibank, including a trip to New York. I have fab memories of our family holidays together. Even short breaks to Dymchurch were good fun. More recently, he enjoyed coach trips with the Horticultural Society.

A special mention must go for a fantastic holiday with Thomas when they joined the Barmy Army to follow the England Cricket Team on a tour of South Africa in 2020.

Dad enjoyed a brilliant social life and had the best friends you could wish for, and nothing was better than sharing happy times together and the best fireworks parties you could ever imagine.

Tom and I never wanted for anything. Dad helped us in every way, especially my English homework regularly on a Sunday afternoon - I hated English homework!

He supported both of us and enjoyed helping us with our studies, and I have him to thank for getting into art college and my current career. Dad loved being active in both our lives, from helping in the garden to DIY.

He also built the fastest go-cart in Sidcup. It's a shame we crashed and broke it so soon after it was made.

Colin was also a brilliant grandad to Hannah and Amelia. He loved reading the Beano to them on his regular Saturday visits; he enjoyed reading the Beano more than they did!

Thank you for being the best dad to me and Tom, the best husband to Mum, and the best grandad to Hannah and Amelia.

The Brown family, including Dad from above, says thank you to everyone for being here today and for your friendship and love.

Friday Coffee Morning

Every Friday in the Church Hall from 10.00am to Noon. Come in for a coffee & biscuit and have a chat with friends. All for church funds.

Friday is the day our minister Rodolphe is usually at Emmanuel if you want to see him.



Sunday Coffee

Coffee will continue to be served in the church after morning service every Sunday.

Donations to Church Funds

ROTA

Dec	3	Pam & Jennifer	Jan	14	Pam & Jennifer
	10	Pat & Marion		21	Pat & Marion
	17	Judith & Maddie		28	Ethel and Maureen
	24	Ethel and Maureen			
	25	No coffee	Feb	4	Judith & Maddie
	31	Ann and Maryia		11	Ann and Maryia
				18	Roger & Christine
Jan	7	Roger & Christine		25	Pam & Jennifer



OUR BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

DECEMBER

Harold Martin	1968
Beatrice Mary Adams	1983
Kathleen Mary Worrall	1987
Christine Leighton Watkins	1990
Joan Mary Stephen Purry	1994
Margaret Anthony Oatridge	2002
Bert Runacres	2004

JANUARY

Arthur Brinley Davis	1969
Joseph George Kearsley	1978
Lily Oswald	1988
Mabel Brunton	1990
Vincent Sawyer	1983
Gillian Averil Lister (née Huett)	1991
Marjory Treacher	1995
Ernest John Reader	2000
Elsie Runacres	2001
Geoffery Betts	2003
Pat Stephenson	2011

FEBRUARY

Henry Russell Verinder	1981
Maurice Adams	1985
Lilian Thompson	1986
Thomas George Brawm	1956
Rose Brawm	1979
Andrew James Bruce Boland	1979
Edith May Davidson	1985
John Clifford Davidson	1950
Florence Emily Wellman	1995
Elsie Jackson Watson	1999
Agnes Hutchison	2000
Sydney Charles Upson	2000
Evelyn Frances Ellercamp	2002

Weekday Activities

Monday	9.30 - 11.00am 5.45pm 6.30pm 7.30pm	Parents & Toddlers (term time) 3 rd Sidcup Beavers 3 rd Sidcup Cub Scouts 3 rd Sidcup Scouts
Thursday	10. 00am	Ladies Morning Club
Friday	10.00am—noon 4.45pm 6.00pm 7.30pm	Coffee Morning 6 th Sidcup Rainbows 6 th Sidcup Brownies 4 th Sidcup Guides



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